

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A pigment composition ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of

(a) 60 to 80% by weight based on the weight of the composition of an organic pigment selected from the group consisting of disazo pigments, metal complex pigments and naphthol pigments,

(b) 2 to 6% by weight based on the weight of the composition of a hyperdispersant which is a reaction product of a ~~poly(lower alkylene)-imine, polyethyleneimine~~ with a polyester having a free carboxylic acid group, in which there are at least two polyester chains attached to each ~~poly(lower alkylene)-imine, polyethyleneimine, wherein the polyester is derived from a hydroxycarboxylic acid of the formula HO-X-COOH, wherein X is a divalent saturated or unsaturated aliphatic radical containing at least 8 carbon atoms, and in which there are at least 4 carbon atoms between the carboxylic and the hydroxy groups~~

(c) 2 to 6% by weight based on the weight of the composition of a synergistic additive, wherein the synergistic additive is an asymmetric disazo compound comprising a central divalent group free from ionic substituents, linked through azo groups to two monovalent end groups, the first being free from any ionic groups and the second being an ammonium carboxylate group, ammonium phosphonate group or ammonium sulfonate group wherein the ammonium ion is substituted by from 1 to 4 alkyl groups containing a total of from 6 to 80 carbon atoms,

(d) 3 to 8% by weight based on the weight of the composition of a solvent, wherein the solvent is an aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbon distillate fraction of boiling points in the range of 100 to 350°C or is a triglyceride vegetable oil in which the fatty acid moieties have a chain length of 12 to 24 carbon atoms, and

(e) 2 to 30% by weight based on the weight of the composition of rosin or a modified rosin wherein the modified rosin is a metal rosinate, a rosin ester, a rosin-modified phenolic resin, a maleinized rosin, a hydrogenated rosin, a disproportionated rosin, or a dimerised, polymerised or part-polymerised rosin, or mixtures thereof.

2-8. (cancelled).

9. (currently amended) An oil-based printing ink for lithographic printing containing as colourant a pigment composition consisting essentially of

(a) 60 to 80% by weight based on the weight of the composition of an organic pigment selected from the group consisting of disazo pigments, metal complex pigments and naphthol pigments,

(b) 2 to 6% by weight based on the weight of the composition of a hyperdispersant which is a reaction product of a polyethyleneimine with a polyester having a free carboxylic acid group, in which there are at least two polyester chains attached to each polyethyleneimine, wherein the polyester is derived from a hydroxycarboxylic acid of the formula HO-X-COOH, wherein X is a divalent saturated or unsaturated aliphatic radical containing at least 8 carbon atoms, and in which there are at least 4 carbon atoms between the carboxylic and the hydroxy groups,

(c) 2 to 6% by weight based on the weight of the composition of a synergistic additive, wherein the synergistic additive is an asymmetric disazo compound comprising a central divalent group free from ionic substituents, linked through azo groups to two monovalent end groups, the first being free from any ionic groups and the second being an ammonium carboxylate group, ammonium phosphonate group or ammonium sulfonate group wherein the ammonium ion is substituted by from 1 to 4 alkyl groups containing a total of from 6 to 80 carbon atoms,

(d) 3 to 8% by weight based on the weight of the composition of a solvent, wherein the solvent is an aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbon distillate fraction of boiling points in the range of 100 to 350°C or is a triglyceride vegetable oil in which the fatty acid moieties have a chain length of 12 to 24 carbon atoms, and

(e) 2 to 30% by weight based on the weight of the composition of rosin or a modified rosin wherein the modified rosin is a metal rosinate, a rosin ester, a rosin-modified phenolic resin, a maleinized rosin, a hydrogenated rosin, a disproportionated rosin, or a dimerised, polymerised or part-polymerised rosin, or mixtures thereof,

according to claim 1 and from 0 to 5% by weight of additives selected from the group consisting of drying enhancers, drying inhibitors, non-coloured extenders, fillers, opacifiers, antioxidants, waxes, oils, surfactants, rheology modifiers, wetting agents, dispersion stabilizers, strike-through inhibitors, anti-foaming agents, adherence promoters, cross-linking agents, plasticisers, photoinitiators, deodorants, biocides, laking agents and chelating agents, wherein the oil-based printing ink is an aromatic or hydrocarbon distillate based ink or a vegetable oil based ink.

10. (currently amended) The printing ink according to claim 9 containing as colourant 5 to 50% by weight of the pigment composition.

11. (currently amended) A process for preparing an oil-based printing ink for lithographic printing ~~the printing ink according to claim 9~~ which comprises dispersing the pigment composition into a into an aromatic or hydrocarbon distillate based lithographic printing ink system or a vegetable oil based lithographic printing ink system a pigment composition consisting essentially of

(a) 60 to 80% by weight based on the weight of the composition of an organic pigment selected from the group consisting of disazo pigments, metal complex pigments and naphthol pigments,

(b) 2 to 6% by weight based on the weight of the composition of a hyperdispersant which is a reaction product of a poly(lower alkylene)-imine with a polyester having a free carboxylic acid group, in which there are at least two polyester chains attached to each poly(lower alkylene)-imine, is a reaction product of polyethyleneimine with a polyester derived from a hydroxycarboxylic acid of the formula HO-X-COOH, wherein X is a divalent saturated or unsaturated aliphatic radical containing at least 8 carbon atoms, and in which there are at least 4 carbon atoms between the carboxylic and the hydroxy groups.

(c) 2 to 6% by weight based on the weight of the composition of a synergistic additive, wherein the synergistic additive is an asymmetric disazo compound comprising a central divalent group free from ionic substituents, linked through azo groups to two monovalent end groups, the first being free from any ionic groups and the second being an ammonium carboxylate group, ammonium phosphonate group or ammonium sulfonate group wherein the ammonium ion is substituted by from 1 to 4 alkyl groups containing a total of from 6 to 80 carbon atoms,

(d) 3 to 8% by weight based on the weight of the composition of a solvent, wherein the solvent is an aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbon distillate fraction of boiling points in the range of 100 to 350°C or is a triglyceride vegetable oil in which the fatty acid moieties have a chain length of 12 to 24 carbon atoms, and

(e) 2 to 30% by weight based on the weight of the composition of rosin or a modified rosin wherein the modified rosin is a metal rosinate, a rosin ester, a rosin-modified phenolic resin, a maleinized rosin, a hydrogenated rosin, a disproportionated rosin, or a dimerised, polymerised or part-polymerised rosin, or mixtures thereof.

12. (cancelled)

13. (previously presented) The pigment composition according to claim 1, wherein the disazo pigment is a diarylide pigment.

14. (previously presented) A pigment composition according to claim 1, wherein the rosin ester of component (e) is a pentaerythritol rosin ester or a vegetable oil rosin ester.

15. (new) The oil-based printing ink according to claim 9, wherein the disazo pigment is a diarylide pigment.

16. (new) The oil-based printing ink according to claim 9, wherein the rosin ester of component (e) is a pentaerythritol rosin ester or a vegetable oil rosin ester.